

**THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY**  
(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street  
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[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)

**First Sunday  
after the Epiphany**

**January 10, 2021  
10:00 am Sunday Worship**

**Service  
via ZOOM**

# Welcome

Photo credit: Doug Persons







## Please keep in prayer this week...

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- Linda and Bill
- Jane Ward & Family
- Joline Mondore & Family
- Judith Suess & Le Roy
- Amy Carr (Gillespie Family)
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie Family)
- Brown Family
- Pagerey Family
- Ron
- Beth
- Ginger
- Charlie Welge
- Mary and Joseph Carmen
- Staff and Leaders

Prayer Concerns? If you would like your church family to join you in prayer, please share your concerns and joys with us.

Call the office at 518-463-4449  
or email [fciaofficemanager@gmail.com](mailto:fciaofficemanager@gmail.com).

# Prelude

Song

*In dir ist Freude (In thee is gladness)*

J.S. Bach

In Christ is gladness, gone is all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
Though you are given the joys of heaven, you the only Savior art.  
To serve you forever, forsake you never, we bow before you, love and adore you.  
Alleluia!

Song

*Come Light, Light of God (sung 3 times)*

arr. Brink

The musical score is written for a piano in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff at various points.

Chord symbols: F, Dm, C, F, B<sup>b</sup>, F, Gm, F, B<sup>b</sup>, Gm, C, Am, B<sup>b</sup>, F.

Lyrics:  
Come, light, light of God, o'er - whelm all cre - a - tion.  
En - light - en our hearts; let your light dwell in us.





# Welcome and Announcements

## Call to Worship

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– Baptism of the Lord, based on Psalm 29

*One: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength:*

**All: Worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

*One: The voice of the Lord is powerful.*

**All: The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

*One: May the Lord give us strength.*

**All: May the Lord bless us with peace.**

*One: Praise the Lord!*

**All: The Lord's name be praised!**

*\*submitted by Michael Morgan, organist, Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia; seminary musician, Columbia Theological Seminary; and author of the Psalter for Christian Worship*



Song

*Rise! Shine! For Thy Light Is a-Comin'*

Spiritual arr.  
John Work

Oh, rise! shine! for thy light is a-comin' My Lord says He's coming by an' by.  
This is the year of jubilee. My Lord says He's coming by an' by.  
My Lord has set His people free. My Lord says He's coming by an' by.

I'tend to shout an' never stop, My Lord says He's coming by an' by,  
Until I reach the mountain top My Lord says He's coming by an' by.

Oh, wet and dry I'tend to try, My Lord says He's coming by an' by,  
To serve the Lord until I die, My Lord says He's coming by an' by.



# Call to Confession

Even as we enter the presence of God, we exclaim with Isaiah: “Woe is me, I am a person of unclean ways, dwelling among a tainted people.” If we claim we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Trusting in the steadfast love of God in Christ Jesus the Lord, let us pray, Lord, have mercy Christ have mercy.

*\*PCUSA Office of Theology and Worship*

# Confession of Sin

Leader 1: Sovereign God, in baptism you called us to turn from sin and to turn to Jesus Christ; but we stray from his ways and do not heed your call.

*(Breath: Inhale and Exhale)*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

Leader 2: In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death that we might be raised with Christ in new life; but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life of righteousness, justice, and love.

*(Breath: Inhale and Exhale)*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

Leader 1: In baptism you united us with all the baptized who confess your name; but we foster division in the church. We refuse to live as one people, and so fail to witness to your reconciling love before the world.

*(Breath: Inhale and Exhale)*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

Leader 2: In baptism you call us to ministry in all realms of life, but we refuse the struggle to know your will; we do not nurture the ways of peace; we allow enmity to grow among us, setting neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse the earth you entrust to our care and live in discord with all you have made.

*(Breath: Inhale and Exhale)*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

*(continued)*

# Confession of Sin *(continued)*

Leader 1: In baptism you sent us to serve with compassion all for whom Christ died; but we ignore the suffering of the oppressed and the plight of the poor. We take bread from the hungry and stop our ears to cries for justice. *(Breath: Inhale and Exhale)*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

Leader 2: In baptism you gave us the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us but we rely on ourselves and refuse to trust your direction. We spurn your eternal wisdom, Preferring, instead, the luring ways of the world. *(Breath: Inhale and Exhale)*

**Leader 1: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy on us. Remember the promises you made to us in baptism, forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness. Set us free from all that enslaves us, and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ, that we may be your faithful servants, showing forth your healing love to the world, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**



# Assurance of Pardon

As water is visibly poured into the font: Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ lives in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is of the New Creation. The old life is finished, gone. Behold, new life has begun. Brothers and Sisters believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.



# The Prayer of Illumination

Creator Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation's birth, who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism, who was poured out under the signs of fire and wind at Pentecost: Come to us, open our hearts and minds, so that we may hear the Word of life and be renewed by your power, for you live and reign with God and Christ now and forevermore. Amen.

# The Gospel Lesson

Acts 19:1-7

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

<sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

<sup>4</sup>Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied--<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

"More"

The Prayer and Blessing on the Word



Anthem

*Tomorrow Shall Be my Dancing Day*

John Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance:  
Refrain: Sing O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance;  
Thus was I knit to man's nature, To call my true love to my dance: Refrain

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, So very poor, this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance: Refrain

Then afterwards baptized I was; The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above, To call my true love to my dance. Refrain

*Cornish Carol*



# The Response to God

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Charge and Blessing

Go forth into the world to live as those baptized into Christ's mission. And may the eternal light of God keep you rock-solidly immersed in the river of life in the peace and power of Holy Spirit now and forevermore. Amen.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona  
Walston, Senior Minister;  
Minister of Music: Mary Bon.

**We welcome all who  
gather to worship God this  
morning, especially  
visitors and friends from  
near and far.**

Photo credit: Doug Persons

